

JOHN D. SULLIVAN
Assistant U.S. Attorney
U.S. Attorney's Office
James F. Battin U.S. Courthouse
2601 Second Ave. North, Suite 3200
Billings, MT 59101
Phone: (406) 657-6101
FAX: (406) 657-6989
Email: John.Sullivan2@usdoj.gov

FILED

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Clerk, U S District Court
District Of Montana
Billings

**ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
BILLINGS DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	CR 17-98-BLG-SPW
Plaintiff,	
vs.	PLEA AGREEMENT
RODNEY ALBERTO HAINS,	
Defendant.	

Pursuant to Rule 11 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the United States, represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney John D. Sullivan, and the defendant, Rodney Alberto Hains, and his attorney, David A. Merchant, II, have agreed upon the following:

1. **Scope:** This plea agreement is between the United States Attorney's

 AUSA	 DEF	 ATTY	<i>December 20, 2017</i> Date
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Office for the District of Montana and the defendant. It does not bind any other federal, state or local prosecuting, administrative or regulatory authority, or the United States Probation Office.

2. Charges: The defendant agrees to plead guilty to count I of the indictment, which charges him with possession of an unregistered firearm, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(d). That offense carries a maximum punishment of ten years of imprisonment, a \$10,000 fine, three years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

The defendant also agrees to abandon all right title and interest in the property described in count I of the indictment, execute a release and waiver to that effect, or agree to the entry of an Order of Forfeiture transferring the property to the United States.

At the time of sentencing, the United States will move to dismiss count II of the indictment if the Court accepts the plea agreement.

3. Nature of the Agreement: The parties agree that this plea agreement will be governed by:

Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(A). The defendant acknowledges that the agreement will be fulfilled provided that the United States moves to dismiss, and the Court agrees to dismiss, count II of the indictment. The defendant understands that if the agreement is accepted by the Court, there will not

<u>77</u>	<u>B.N.</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>December 28, 2017</u>
AUSA	DEF	ATTY	Date

be an automatic right to withdraw the plea.

Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c)(1)(B). The defendant acknowledges that this agreement will be fulfilled provided that the United States makes the recommendations provided below. The defendant understands that even if the Court does not accept or follow the recommendations made by the United States, there will not be an automatic right to withdraw the plea. Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(3)(B).

4. Admission of Guilt: The defendant will plead guilty because the defendant is in fact guilty of the charges contained in count I of the indictment. In pleading guilty to count I, the defendant acknowledges that:

First, the defendant knowingly possessed a shotgun with a barrel less than 18 inches in length; and

Second, the shotgun was not registered to the defendant in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record.

The government must also prove that the defendant knew of those features that brought the firearm within the scope of the statute.

5. Waiver of Rights by Plea:

(a) The government has a right to use against the defendant, in a prosecution for perjury or false statement, any statement that the defendant gives under oath during the plea colloquy.

(b) The defendant has the right to plead not guilty or to persist in a

			
AUSA	DEF	ATTY	Date

plea of not guilty.



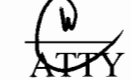
(c) The defendant has the right to a jury trial unless the defendant, by written waiver, consents to a non-jury trial. The government must also consent and the Court must approve a non-jury trial.

(d) The defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary, have the court appoint counsel, at trial and at every other stage of these proceedings.

(e) If the trial is a jury trial, the jury would be composed of 12 laypersons selected at random. The defendant and defense attorney would have a say in who the jurors would be by removing prospective jurors for cause where actual bias or other disqualification is shown, or without cause by exercising peremptory challenges. The jury would have to agree unanimously before it could return a verdict of either guilty or not guilty. The jury would be instructed that the defendant is presumed innocent, and that it could not convict the defendant unless, after hearing all the evidence, it was persuaded of the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

(f) If the trial is held by the judge without a jury, the judge would find the facts and determine, after hearing all the evidence, whether or not he was persuaded of the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

(g) At a trial, whether by a jury or a judge, the government would

 AUSA	 DEF	 ATTY	<u>December 28, 2017</u> Date
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be required to present its witnesses and other evidence against the defendant. The defendant would be able to confront those government witnesses and the defense attorney would be able to cross-examine them. In turn, the defendant could present witnesses and other evidence on the defendant's own behalf. If the witnesses for the defendant would not appear voluntarily, their appearance could be mandated through the subpoena power of the Court.

(h) At a trial, there is a privilege against self-incrimination so that the defendant could decline to testify and no inference of guilt could be drawn from refusal to testify. Or the defendant could exercise the choice to testify on his or her own behalf.

(i) If convicted, and within 14 days of the entry of the Judgment and Commitment, the defendant would have the right to appeal the conviction to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for review to determine if any errors were made which would entitle the defendant to reversal of the conviction.

(j) The defendant has a right to have the district court conduct the change of plea hearing required by Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11. By execution of this agreement, the defendant expressly waives that right and agrees to hold that hearing before, and allow the Rule 11 colloquy to be conducted by, the U.S. Magistrate Judge.

			
AUSA	DEF	ATTY	Date

(k) If convicted in this matter, a defendant who is not a citizen of the United States may be removed from the United States, denied citizenship, and denied admission to the United States in the future.

The defendant understands that by pleading guilty pursuant to this agreement, defendant is waiving all the rights set forth in this paragraph. The defendant's attorney has explained these rights and the consequences of waiving these rights.

6. Recommendations: The United States will recommend the defendant's offense level be decreased by two levels for acceptance of responsibility, under USSG §3E1.1(a). The parties reserve the right to make any other arguments at the time of sentencing. The defendant understands that the Court is not bound by this recommendation.

7. Sentencing Guidelines: Although advisory, the parties agree that the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines must be applied, and a calculation determined, as part of the protocol of sentencing to determine what sentence will be reasonable.

8. Appeal Waiver: The defendant acknowledges that 18 U.S.C. § 3742(a) affords the right to appeal the sentence imposed in this case. The prosecution has a comparable right of appeal provided in 18 U.S.C. § 3742(b). By this agreement the defendant waives his right to appeal any aspect of the sentence, including conditions of probation or supervised release, if the sentence imposed is

 AUSA	 DEF	 ATTY	 Date
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
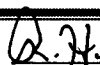

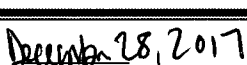
within or below the guideline range calculated by the Court, regardless of whether the defendant agrees with that range. The United States waives its right to appeal any aspect of the sentence if the sentence imposed is within or above the guideline range calculated by the Court.

The defendant also waives his right to challenge the sentence in a collateral proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. This waiver does not, however, prohibit his right to pursue or maintain such an action alleging that he received ineffective assistance of counsel.

9. Voluntary Plea: The defendant and defendant's attorney acknowledge that no threats, promises, or representations have been made to induce the defendant to plead guilty, and this agreement is freely and voluntarily endorsed by the parties.

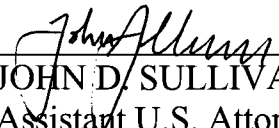
10. Detention/Release After Plea: Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3143(a)(1), the defendant acknowledges that he will be detained upon conviction unless the Court finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that he will not likely flee or pose a danger to the community.

11. Entire Agreement: Any statements or representations made by the United States, the defendant, or defense counsel prior to the full execution of this plea agreement are superseded by this plea agreement. No promises or representations have been made by the United States except as set forth in writing


 AUSA	 DEF	 ATTY	 Date
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in this plea agreement. This plea agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties. Any term or condition which is not expressly stated as part of this plea agreement is not to be considered part of the agreement.

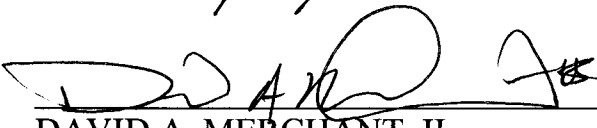
KURT G. ALME
United States Attorney



JOHN D. SULLIVAN
Assistant U.S. Attorney
Date: 1/18/18



RODNEY ALBERTO HAINS
Defendant
Date: 12/28/17



DAVID A. MERCHANT, II
Defense Counsel
Date: December 28, 2017

			<u>December 28, 2017</u>
ACUSA	DEF	ATTY	Date